United Nations PBC/6/GUI/3

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 June 2012
English
Original: French

Peacebuilding Commission
Sixth session
Guinea configuration

Report of the first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments between the Government of Guinea and the Peacebuilding Commission (September 2011 to March 2012)

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1. Introduction

1. The Statement of Mutual Commitments for peacebuilding in Guinea, concluded on 23 September 2011 between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, sets forth the commitments made by the two parties with respect to the three peacebuilding priorities, namely: (a) promotion of national reconciliation and unity; (b) reform of the defence and security sector; and (c) policy on employment of youth and women. The Commission's work in these three areas is supplemented by the activities identified in the second peacebuilding priority plan and financed by the Peacebuilding Fund.

2. The aim of this first review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments is to evaluate the progress made and to review and, where necessary, refine the commitments of the Guinean Government and the Peacebuilding Commission. The recommendations and conclusions of this review will guide Guinea's subsequent commitment to the Commission.

3. The review process and the preparation of the present report were carried out in close cooperation with the Government of Guinea and actors on the ground. In partnership with the United Nations country team in Conakry, the Government of Guinea reported on the progress made with regard to peacebuilding and presented a consolidated version of this self-evaluation and its proposed recommendations to the Chairperson of the Guinea configuration on the occasion of her visit to Conakry from 11 to 15 March 2012 with a delegation of the Guinea configuration. At the same time, configuration members gave her an assessment of their inputs to the three priority peacebuilding areas and proposed recommendations that might be made to the Government and the Commission.

4. Generally speaking, the country has made remarkable progress during the short period of time that has elapsed since the adoption of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. The reforms and initiatives adopted by the Government show a strong determination to work for the strengthening of democracy and political and economic stability in the country.

5. The main recommendations for building on the results achieved are: early holding of legislative elections that are free, transparent, politically and technically credible, peaceful and acceptable to and accepted by all; acceleration of the consultation process for national reconciliation; continued reform of the defence and security sector, especially with regard to the bolstering of civilian control and the reform of the justice sector; investment in employment and in critical social sectors in order to improve the population's living conditions; and a commitment to better coordination among international partners in support of Guinea's peacebuilding and development efforts.

2. Review of progress made in the three peacebuilding priority areas

2.1. Promotion of national reconciliation and unity

6. By decree of 24 June 2011, the President of the Republic set up a provisional National Reconciliation Commission to develop a strategic vision for the conduct of the national reconciliation process and make recommendations to the President on

the approach to be taken. To this end, it has produced a document entitled "*En route vers la réconciliation nationale*" (Towards national reconciliation), which focuses on the best way of settling past disputes. Under the Reconciliation Commission's auspices, days of prayer for peace and reconciliation have been held in all the country's prefectures, with the final day of prayer in Labé attended by numerous governmental authorities and civil society actors. The Reconciliation Commission also organized a workshop in December 2011 at which experiences were shared with African international experts on issues of transitional justice and human rights.

7. More recent painful events, such as the 28 September 2009 violence, were the subject of an international inquiry, accompanied by recommendations and actions agreed to by the Government. Several actions are under way to ensure victims' right to justice: a panel of three Guinean investigating judges was appointed in early 2010. Since 2011, the panel has been based in the premises of the General Inspectorate of Judicial Services, allowing it to receive victims and witnesses in better conditions and to take advantage of the security team assigned to these premises. To date, the judges have heard some 192 victims and witnesses. Six alleged perpetrators have been imprisoned and an army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Moussa Thégboro Camara, whom the report of the International Commission of Inquiry mandated to establish the facts and circumstances of the events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea (S/2009/693) named as one of those allegedly responsible for the events, has been indicted.

8. The Minister for Justice and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict signed a joint communiqué in November 2011 in which the Government of Guinea gave a number of important commitments, notably to combating impunity for sexual violence, including introducing a zero tolerance policy, implementing the recommendations of the International Commission of Inquiry into the serious crimes committed on 28 September 2009, putting into effect a code of conduct for the country's security forces that includes the prevention of sexual violence, bolstering reform of the security sector to ensure respect for fundamental human rights principles, and entering into a dialogue with victims of the 28 September 2009 crimes and engaging with civil society to ensure reparations and national reconciliation.

9. The Government and all political actors expressed the need for dialogue in order to create conditions favourable to the holding of credible, free and transparent legislative elections that are accepted by all Guineans. They agreed to put in place a consensual structure, the "inclusive framework for political dialogue", incorporating all shades of political opinion in the country and steered by a panel of facilitators appointed by mutual agreement and chaired by Albert David Guillaume Gomez.

10. This dialogue has permitted discussion of all the key issues raised by participants in the elections and produced the following points of agreement: (a) respect for State authority; (b) free exercise of political activities; (c) free access to public media for opposition political parties; (d) neutrality of the public administration; (e) reconstitution of branches of the Independent National Electoral Commission; (f) amendment of article 162 of the Electoral Code to transfer from the Chairman of the Electoral Commission to the President of the Constitutional Court the power to invalidate reports; (g) audit of the electoral roll; (h) review of electoral registers. The parties remain divided on other major issues, however. The outstanding points of disagreement are: (a) procedures for reviewing electoral

registers; (b) audit of the electoral roll (recruitment of the auditor, data migration between two systems, SAGEM and WAYMARK); (c) joint management of the electoral roll; (d) restructuring of the Electoral Commission; (e) recovery of documents drawn up by the Electoral Commission; (f) restoration of dissolved communal councils; (g) timetable for the preparation of elections.

11. Lastly, with regard to other dialogue processes, the Government launched a series of meetings with social partners on issues related to the civil service pension, the raising of salaries to the guaranteed minimum wage and conditions for exercising the right to retirement, a right guaranteed by the Constitution which, like other rights, should be monitored by State institutions.

12. In line with the commitments made in the Statement of Mutual Commitments, the progress made by the Government during the period under review was supplemented by actions and support on the part of the Peacebuilding Commission and international partners, including France, Luxembourg, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union and the Peacebuilding Fund.

13. OIF has provided support to transition institutions in order to ensure the conduct of free elections, as well as the reform of the security sector. In response to an invitation from the Guinean authorities, the OIF Secretary-General, Mr. Abdou Diouf, made an official visit to Guinea from 4 to 6 January 2012, affording him an insight into the difficulties faced by the Guinean parties in trying to bring to a successful conclusion the political dialogue that is to lead to free, reliable and transparent legislative elections and to permit completion of the transition. Mr. Diouf recommended an approach based on inclusion and consensus, which necessarily involves restoring trust between the parties, and said that OIF was fully prepared to support the electoral process and to help strengthen institutions governed by the rule of law.

14. The European Union has a 5 million euro (approx. 6.5 million dollars) programme of additional electoral assistance, which will support the legislative elections, including the Electoral Commission, make a contribution to UNDP to ensure that the elections, including the audit of the electoral roll, are secure and support civil society (in coordination with other partners, including France, Spain and the United States of America and the non-governmental organizations IFES, NDI, Guinea's National Council of Civil Society Organizations (CNOSC-G) and Search for Common Ground). As part of its support for national reconciliation, the European Union also plans to assist the National Assembly. Turkey, too, is considering making a contribution, at Guinea's request, to the preparations for parliamentary elections.

15. UNDP and OHCHR are providing support to the National Reconciliation Commission. At the time of drafting this report, an expert had just been made available to the Commission to help it develop a strategic vision and an approach for the conduct of the national reconciliation process.

16. Several partners have supported the Government in its work of providing support to 28 September 2009 victims:

(a) France is continuing to provide financial support for the medical and psychosocial care of 28 September 2009 victims. In 2011, this support permitted the organization of targeted training for medical teams at the mother and child clinic;

(b) The European Union is supporting a programme (700,000 euros/approx. $918,000 for 2011-2013) through the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) to provide legal aid to 28 September 2009 victims and victims of earlier or subsequent political violence;

(c) The expert team of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited Guinea from 11 to 14 March 2012 to discuss the assignment of an international expert to support the work of the panel of judges that is investigating the 28 September 2009 events, as part of the implementation of the November 2011 joint communiqué. The expert team is working closely with the OHCHR office in Guinea.

17. Luxembourg has contributed 100,000 euros (approx. $131,000) through the Peacebuilding Fund to capacity-building for the joint Chairmen of Guinea's National Reconciliation Commission. It has also contributed 50,000 euros (approx. $65,500) to the Fondation Hirondelle to help it set up a multilingual radio station that will give the population and civil society a voice, permitting a calm national dialogue for national reconciliation.

18. Through a £7,900 (approx. $12,650) bilateral project on conflict prevention in the Guinée Forestière region, the United Kingdom is supporting inter-community dialogue and human rights awareness-raising. Mediation committees have been established to help manage intra-community relations.

19. Through the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund in West Africa, Spain has contributed 1.1 million euros (approx. 1.44 million dollars) to the reform of the public administration in Guinea.

20. With regard to the Peacebuilding Fund, the period under review saw the completion of the preparatory phase of the projects concerned, comprising 1.7 million dollars to support political dialogue during the electoral period, as well as the reconciliation process (notably the National Reconciliation Commission and victims of violence).

2.2. Reform of the defence and security sector

21. Building on the dynamic created by the 2010 evaluation of the security sector, the Government, with the support of the international community, especially the Peacebuilding Fund, has undertaken courageous reforms in the security sector.

22. For instance, a law clarifying the functions and powers of each of the defence and security forces is being drafted.

23. The steering committee for the reform of the security sector, set up by presidential decree, is fully operational and has permitted the drafting of laws and regulations on the reform of the security sector (national defence policy, statute for members of the armed forces, code of military justice, code of conduct for members of the armed forces, special statutes for the national police, civil protection officers and customs officers, decree establishing a corps of conservation officers for biological diversity and protected areas, etc.). Through this institutional framework, a national plan of action for the reform of the security sector is being finalized.

24. The main actions carried out since the adoption of the Statement of Mutual Commitments concern the launching of the biometric census of military personnel and the retirement of 3,928 such personnel:

(a) With regard to the biometric census, enrolment operations took place from 5 October to 28 November 2011, with United Nations technical and financial support. Compilation and monitoring of the results are being finalized by ContiPrint, in conjunction with concerned departments in the Ministry of Defence. Statistical analysis of the results is to be carried out with UNDP technical support;

(b) With regard to retirement, 3,928 military personnel (enlisted between 1952 and 1975) were retired in December 2011, based on the results of the biometric census and pre-established retirement criteria. At the same time, arrangements were made for the Government to pay the first three months of the pension for such personnel.

25. The Government has also taken action on the recommendations of the evaluation report and/or the national seminar on reform of the security sector. This includes a ban on soldiers bearing arms or moving in isolation, the creation of a military police force responsible for overseeing military personnel, the demilitarization of the capital city and the redeployment throughout the national territory of more than 1,686 members of the former Presidential Guard and the airborne troop battalion, as well as the redeployment to the country's interior of armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, heavy weaponry and military engineering works.

26. Among other components of the reform, variable progress has been made in the five reform sectors and in the functioning of the sectoral technical committees. Efforts have also been limited by, inter alia, the inadequacy of the resources available to these components.

27. With regard to the implementation of the Statement of Commitments, the progress made by the Government in the area of reform of the security sector during the period under review was supported by the action of the Peacebuilding Commission and international partners, notably France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the Peacebuilding Fund.

28. Several partners have carried out or planned bilateral or coordinated activities in support of reform of the security sector:

(a) The European Union is preparing a programme in support of reform of the security sector totalling 20 million euros (approx. 26.2 million dollars) for 2012-2015, covering the following indicative areas: institutional support for reform of the security sector (coordinating committee and partner platform); reform of the civil service pension scheme; support for the introduction of retraining opportunities with a view to strengthening some security forces: environment and civil protection; support for the national policy of socioeconomic reintegration of people at risk (which could form part of the national employment policy for vulnerable groups, currently being developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Advancement of Women and Children with support from the World Bank). Pending the programme's establishment, the European Union plans to make technical assistance available from the summer of 2012 to provide institutional support for reform of the security sector;

(b) In 2011, France mobilized its emergency funds (totalling 500,000 euros) to finance expert and training missions but also to buy equipment for the gendarmerie, the police and the civil protection force. Its customary defence cooperation activities (nearly 2 million euros or approx. 2.62 million dollars; eight military cooperation workers in Conakry) and internal security activities (600,000 euros; three cooperation workers in Conakry) are focused on training and human resources. In 2012, France plans to continue the efforts undertaken in 2011 with a total budget of 1.8 million euros (approx. 2.36 million dollars);

(c) Spain is assisting the Ministry of Security with the establishment of a training centre for the police, including the customs police, and the gendarmerie. Ultimately, the centre is intended to become a referral centre for migration issues and could serve to train staff from other ministries. Spain will provide 125,000 euros (approx. $165,000) in funding for the project through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)-Spain Fund on Migration and Development;

(d) Luxembourg has contributed 200,000 euros (approx. $262,000) to the Peacebuilding Fund for the project to support the retirement of some 4,000 military personnel;

(e) The Russian Federation has donated 50 UAZ four-wheel drive vehicles to Guinea, which were handed over officially on 9 February 2011 in the presence of the Prime Minister and other members of the Guinean Government. The vehicles will help increase the mobility of the Guinean authorities, especially for reaching inaccessible regions;

(f) Ukraine may enter into a bilateral cooperation arrangement in the area of reform of the security sector once an intergovernmental agreement on military technical cooperation has been signed.

29. Three members of the configuration have provided support for the reform of the justice system:

(a) The European Union, lead entity in the justice sector, has undertaken the following activities: (i) a programme of technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice: 1.3 million euros (approx. 1.7 million dollars), comprising the creation of a platform for the reform of the justice sector, the mapping of courts and prisons, the development of an emergency training programme and the transformation of the functioning of the justice system into an operational plan of action; (ii) a 20 million euro (approx. 26.22 million dollars) programme of support for the reform of the justice system (2012-2016) is currently being identified;

(b) Germany is providing assistance to the justice sector under a Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) regional programme for the promotion of the rule of law and the justice sector in West Africa. Guinea was included in this programme in January 2012, the other countries in the programme being Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone. The planned funding amounts to 500,000 euros (approx. $655,000) a year for Guinea and the programme is scheduled to continue until April 2014;

(c) France has helped provide basic training to young judges and magistrates as a means of strengthening the justice system.

30. Two partners in particular are carrying out activities at the subregional level:

(a) From January to June 2012, the United Kingdom is providing £200,000 (approx. $317,000) to support an English-language training project for 120 young members of the Guinean army, which should enable the Guinean army to play a greater role in regional and international peacekeeping efforts and help promote cooperation and regional military integration between the Guinean army and its counterparts in Sierra Leone and Liberia;

(b) Following a November 2011 audit, France has been supporting the Guinean State's sea-based action by providing the Guinean navy with the means to carry out reconnaissance of its borders and upgrade the equipment of the lookout post in the port of Conakry. This action has already borne fruit: three boats engaged in illegal fishing activities were inspected in the first operational sortie on 13 February 2012.

31. The Peacebuilding Fund has provided a total of 6.2 million dollars to support two projects designed to launch the reform of the security sector, namely, the census of the defence and security forces and the retirement of some 4,000 military personnel, and a project for bolstering civilian control. During the period under review, this support enabled important results to be achieved: (a) the census of 25,432 active military personnel was completed in December 2011; (b) of these, 3,928 eligible military personnel retired at the end of the year, with post-retirement support provided for the first four months. In early March 2012, in response to a formal request from the President of the Republic, the Peacebuilding Fund approved $841,000 in funding for the assignment of a high-level adviser and a support team to provide strategic support for the reform of the security sector.

2.3. Policy on employment of youth and women

32. The Government of Guinea is aware of the fragmentation of responsibilities among the different ministerial departments in charge of young people, employment and vocational training, as well as of their activities on the ground. It has taken administrative steps with a view to, inter alia, putting in place a youth employment advisory body during the second quarter of 2012. It is also trying to make support for women's and young people's economic initiatives more coherent by setting up a women's solidarity fund, currently totalling GF 100 billion (14.36 million dollars) and a youth solidarity fund amounting to GF 20 billion (2.87 million dollars).

33. Several other initiatives have been taken by the Government and its partners to promote youth employment in the main sectors of the economy, including:

(a) The taxi motorbikes project in the seven regional capitals, targeting young people aged 18 to 35;

(b) The "young Guineans at work" project, targeting 1,850 young people who will be employed on urban and rural solar- and hydro-powered electrification projects;

(c) The "social safety nets" project supported by the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO), which aims to create 24,000 temporary jobs for young people and women (30 per cent of beneficiaries will be women); and

(d) The UNDP-supported fund to promote the creation of agricultural businesses, targeting young college-leavers.

34. In agriculture, the Government is setting up, on an experimental basis, 10 agricultural equipment management centres, which will be run by young people. Under a programme called "Green revolution", agricultural equipment comprising 100 tractors, 100 motorized cultivators and small implements has been mobilized to support 50 groups of young people, totalling 3,500 beneficiaries.

35. In the microfinance sector, a policy document is being drafted and numerous microfinance institutions have been created. The structures of the General Microfinance Agency that will be in charge of administering the women's solidarity fund and the youth solidarity fund, respectively, are gradually being put in place.

36. In the mining sector, in which several partners are showing renewed interest, the Ministry of Technical Education, in cooperation with the French Development Agency, Rio Tinto and a French research consultancy, has made a survey of young people's job training needs. The survey's implementation is proceeding rather slowly, however. In addition to these initiatives, there are the advocacy activities being carried out by the ministers in charge of employment and the frequent contacts of senior civil servants responsible for youth, employment, technical education and vocational training with mining companies.

37. In parallel with these actions, a second youth employment programme is being developed with all stakeholders, under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth and Youth Employment. This programme places special emphasis on elements contributing to peacebuilding and the prevention of social tensions through labour-intensive activities.

38. Initiatives by the Service Civique d'Action pour le Développement include the following: establishment of a strategy council; organization of a reconnaissance and identification tour of potential Service Civique sites; design and preparation of some strategy documents; identification of the agency's headquarters and the first Service Civique sites; training of national instructors; conduct of a study on employment-generating labour sectors; and planning of volunteer recruitment.

39. With regard to efforts to combat gender-based violence, a National Observatory against Gender-based Violence has been set up and equipped since December 2011 by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Advancement of Women and Children with a view to improved monitoring. A fourth pilot centre for the care of victims has been established. In cooperation with OHCHR, a database is being developed for gathering information on, among other things, gender-based violence.

40. The progress made by the Government in the area of employment of youth and women has been supported by the actions of the Peacebuilding Commission and international partners, including France, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the Peacebuilding Fund.

41. The World Bank is preparing a social welfare programme (the "productive social safety nets" project), under the aegis of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which has three components: (a) a labour-intensive public works programme (direct creation of 24,000 temporary jobs benefiting nearly 150,000 people through the transfer of around GF 53.4 billion in wages), life skills training (5,000 beneficiaries), targeting young people in urban areas, with a view to the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of essential urban infrastructure (with some 500,000 indirect beneficiaries of an improvement in living conditions) and short-term job creation; (b) pilot monetary transfers for improving human capital in poor rural areas affected

by food insecurity; (c) institutional backstopping, capacity-building and project management, including support for the project's operational units in the development of key elements of a social welfare policy. The project will receive 25 million dollars in funding from the International Development Association (IDA). An as yet unconfirmed contribution of 2 million dollars from the Peacebuilding Fund would expand the scope of component (i) of the project by increasing the number of young beneficiaries.

42. The Japanese Government has provided some US$ 3 million in funding through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for a project to support vocational training for young people in Guinea.

43. Since late 2010, the French Cooperation Agency has been working in partnership with the Guinean Government to set up SCAD, the aims of which are youth training and the reintegration of young soldiers in civilian life.

44. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation is carrying out the following activities, among others, in the area of youth employment: a project in support of the Don Bosco Advanced Vocational Training Centre in Kankan (173,656 euros/approx. US$ 227,600) and a programme to support the creation of technology businesses and youth employment (520,872 euros/approx. US$ 682,842). Under the regional youth employment and social cohesion programme, Spain has funded a project currently being implemented by UNDP (US$ 1.5 million). The project includes the operation of the Spanish fund for youth integration, a $500,000 microcredit initiative through which 2,500 young people have set up their first business. In 2012, vocational training and youth employment have been two priority areas of Spanish development cooperation in Guinea.

45. The United Kingdom has carried out the following activities for the advancement of youth and women (in an amount of £37,000/approx. $60,000):

(a) Training of young entrepreneurs in Conakry; business training; coordination of advocacy in youth employment centres; creation of communication networks for sharing information on job opportunities; apprenticeships in manual trades and workshops on income-generating activities;

(b) Promotion of women's participation in elections and decision-making; training on decision-making, leadership and rights; promotion of female candidates in elections; projects in Conakry and Kindia to improve women's economic situation, promote business awareness and create income-generating activities.

46. Given the priority assigned by Guinea to the creation of job opportunities for young people, Turkey plans to launch vocational training programmes.

47. In 2011, Ukraine awarded 20 higher education scholarships to Guinean citizens. It also issued student visas to a further 65 young Guineans. The Ukrainian Government plans to award the same number of scholarships in 2012.

48. The European Union is providing 8 million euros (approx. 10.5 million dollars) to support a labour-intensive programme for the improvement and rehabilitation of secondary roads in the city of Conakry and some smaller cities, with a view to creating a minimum of 25,000 man/months of short-term employment. Part of this is being channelled through the World Bank's Third Urban Development Project (PDU3) (at least 10,000 man/months) (cf. para. 41) and part through the Road Maintenance Fund.

45. With regard to Peacebuilding Fund support, the period under review saw the completion of the preparatory phase of the projects concerned, which comprises US$ 2.1 million to support job creation in the sanitation sector for young people and women exposed to the risk of conflict.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

50. At the conclusion of the review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments between the Government of Guinea and the Peacebuilding Commission and in consideration of the current risks and opportunities for peacebuilding, the Guinea configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission:

51. Notes that the principal Guinean actors and international partners are in agreement concerning the finalization of the transition, which must be reflected in the holding of free, transparent, politically and technically credible, inclusive elections that are acceptable to and accepted by all, and observes, in addition, that such elections are perceived by the Guineans as an opportunity for national reconciliation and for increased participation of women in political life;

52. Welcomes President Condé's openness to dialogue; takes note of the consensus points arrived at through inclusive political dialogue on important questions relating to the legislative elections; encourages the stakeholders to proceed insofar as possible with the dialogue concerning as yet unresolved issues; and expresses its concern, in that context, over the atmosphere of mistrust that reigns over the legislative election process and a certain tendency to manipulate ethnic identity for political purposes;

53. Notes the efforts to commence the consultation process aimed at setting up national reconciliation mechanisms and the Guinean population's expectations for a more open and expeditious process;

54. Welcomes the appreciable initial progress made in reforming the security sector, in particular the biometric census and the retiring of 3,928 military personnel who have reached retirement age, and takes note of the wish of the Government and its partners to build on the dynamic and confidence created by these initial steps to proceed with reforms that are more structural in nature;

55. Takes note of the concerns of the Guinean authorities regarding new security threats, in particular the conflicts and threats faced by the countries of the Sahel and West Africa, such as transborder crime, small arms proliferation, drug trafficking and threats by terrorist organizations, and hears their appeal for a subregional approach;

56. Also takes note of the fact that it is impossible for some international partners to commit themselves side by side with the Guinean authorities in combating drug trafficking and transborder crime as long as the departments that deal with such threats are run by any of the persons named in the report of the International Commission of Inquiry mandated to establish the facts and circumstances of the events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea as being allegedly responsible for those events and who have subsequently been indicted;

57. Notes the initiatives of the Government in the area of employment of youth and women, in particular the fund established by the Government for the promotion of women entrepreneurs and the fund for the promotion of youth employment, and

takes note of the Government's desire to possess high-level expertise to develop a medium- and long-term vision of employment for youth and women;

58. Notes that important reforms are in progress, especially in the macroeconomic sphere, and that the population expects to see more concrete dividends from democracy and the reforms. The Guinean authorities hope to reach the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative by the second half of 2012 in order to be able to invest in social sectors resources currently earmarked for debt service;

59. Takes note of the high expectations existing with respect to the development of the mining sector and the concern expressed by many in relation to the risks of conflict over mining concessions, which may be connected with access to employment, relations with the communities around the concessions or land rights, and, in this context, welcomes the support of international partners (including France, the European Union, the World Bank and UNDP) for balanced local development and sustainable land management through substantial support for decentralization;

60. Welcomes the support of international and regional partners in the three areas of peacebuilding and takes note of their intention to strengthen cooperation with Guinea following the legislative elections;

61. The Guinean Government and the Peacebuilding Commission undertake to continue their cooperation in favour of peacebuilding, bearing in mind the following points, which supplement their mutual commitments adopted on 23 September 2011, whose continued relevance they confirm.

3.1. Promotion of national reconciliation and unity

It is recommended that the Government:

62. Ensure that legislative elections are held before the end of 2012 and see to it that they are free, transparent, politically and technically credible, peaceful and acceptable to and accepted by all; urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to finalize a timetable that meets the aforesaid credibility criteria and improves communication with the political parties and international partners, so as to avoid mistrust and the danger of misunderstanding and provide sustained, coordinated support to the electoral process; and invite the international and regional partners and civil society organizations to deploy electoral observers at an early stage in order to support and strengthen the credibility of the electoral process;

63. Strengthen the National Reconciliation Commission and accelerate the national consultation process with a view to the establishment of a national reconciliation mechanism that draws upon the recent experience of other countries. The Commission should use a methodology that makes it possible to take stock of the wishes of the population regarding the mechanisms of transitional justice to be adopted and takes into account the national context and the specific features of reconciliation in Guinea, which is twofold: reconciliation between citizens and the State and reconciliation between the civilian population and the security and defence forces;

64. Continue the dialogue with the victims of the large-scale violence committed by the State or the security forces with a view to achieving restorative justice that

will enable them to move forward on the path of reconciliation, and incorporate support to victims of State violence into the national reconciliation process;

65. Continue cooperation with international partners, such as that provided for in the Human Rights Council resolution on the strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea (A/HRC/19/L.40), and in particular facilitate the establishment of an independent national human rights commission once the National Assembly is elected and has been able to pass an organic law, as provided in the Constitution;

66. Continue to facilitate the work of the panel of judges charged with investigating the events of 28 September 2009, by making available to it the necessary means of ensuring the effective protection of victims, witnesses and panel staff, the security of evidence and data and the necessary mobility for travel to victims, as well as computer and office equipment, all of which should be done in accordance with the recommendations of the team of experts and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and in this context, continue cooperation with the International Criminal Court;

67. In keeping with the desire of the Government to go all the way in the fight against impunity, take all appropriate measures to complete as soon as possible the judicial proceedings against those allegedly responsible for the violence committed in the period around 28 September 2009 who are named in the report of the International Commission of Inquiry and still occupy Guinean Government posts;

68. Step up efforts and strengthen traditional methods aimed at community-level reconciliation and peaceful settlement of potential conflicts, including conflicts over land relating to mining and other natural resource concessions, labour union conflicts (between employers and employees), and conflicts between communities relating to the search for employment and competition between local populations and immigrant workers.

It is recommended that the Peacebuilding Commission:

69. Increase its cooperation with the Guinean Government and other stakeholders with a view to the organization of politically and technically credible legislative elections; pursue, in this context, advocacy for a strengthened inter-Guinean dialogue;

70. Ensure increased, coordinated assistance by international partners in the organization of the legislative elections, including in the area of election security;

71. Support a lesson-learning exercise on the electoral process to identify the principal lessons learned and put in place more solid bases for future elections, and ensure the application of the recommendations and lessons learned recorded in evaluation reports on electoral processes with a view to the assessment of future elections;

72. Design a programme for building the capacities of parliamentary groups and structures in the National Assembly as well as of political parties;

73. Mobilize high-quality international expertise to support the National Reconciliation Commission in order to help Guineans develop a national reconciliation programme that takes into account the specifics of the process in Guinea; in this connection, the Peacebuilding Commission will help to make available the related best practices;

74. Support the setting up of an independent national human rights commission once the National Assembly is elected and has been able to adopt the measures called for by the Constitution;

75. Continue and increase support for the panel of judges charged with investigating the events of 28 September 2009 with a view to the full implementation of the joint communiqué between the Government and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

3.2. Reform of the defence and security sector

It is recommended that the Government:

76. Continue the reform of the security sector as a Government priority and begin work on the structural aspects of the reform on the basis of the dynamic and success of recent operations such as the biometric census and the retiring of 3,928 military personnel; move ahead with the reform of the security sector (including the police, gendarmerie, customs and forest guards), placing appropriate means at their disposal; and in particular, elaborate a strategy of response to the threats identified in the defence policy document of November 2011, quantifying and describing that response;

77. Bolster the establishment of mechanisms and instruments of civilian control of the security sector, continue to involve civilians in the development of the Government's projects for the reform of that sector and those financed by the Peacebuilding Fund and other partners and continue efforts aimed at improving relations between civilians and the military with a view to realizing the aim of putting in place a republican army conscious of its duties and subject to civilian authority;

78. Ensure good coordination of sectoral committees and interventions by technical and financial partners and enhance the capacities of technical committees, in particular those of the police, customs and justice and those relating to the environment, providing them with appropriate means;

79. Continue efforts towards greater transparency in the financial management of the defence and security sector;

80. Examine the possibility of reintegrating some defence and security force personnel, in particular retired members of the army who wish to continue to work, into other employment areas, including the private security sector;

81. Work with international partners to confront new security threats, as for example conflicts in and threats to the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan strip, transborder organized crime such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and the threat posed by international terrorism; and use a subregional approach through joint responses coordinated at the level of the countries of the subregion, with recourse to existing mechanisms such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union and the West African Coasts Initiative;

82. Review the allocation of resources to the justice sector, bearing in mind the considerable challenges in the area of the fight against impunity and corruption, the restoration of the rule of law and the promotion of human rights; and ensure

effective coordination and division of labour among the international partners supporting the justice sector.

It is recommended that the Peacebuilding Commission:

83. Continue and strengthen a coordinated approach to support for efforts to reform the security sector that indicates to the Government the international partners' determination to remain committed for the long term;

84. Strengthen and coordinate support for the Special Force for a Safe Electoral Process (FOSSEPEL), in view of the coming legislative and local elections;

85. Work with the Government to derive lessons from operations having a rapid impact, such as the biometric census and retirement; follow up the subsequent phases, in particular human resources management in the armed forces and the ongoing operation of the military personnel retirement system; and prepare the next phases to extend the pension system to all security forces and ultimately to the public service as a whole;

86. Strengthen and coordinate support to the justice sector.

87. Bring together regional and national actors to develop regional approaches to security-sector reform questions such as drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

3.3. Policy on employment of youth and women

It is recommended that the Government:

88. Continue efforts aimed at harmonizing the Government's approach to questions of policy relating to youth, education and training and employment of youth and women by reducing the fragmentation of the ministerial departments in charge of such policies and introducing a mechanism to ensure that they exhibit greater consistency;

89. Continue efforts towards greater political, economic and social empowerment of women, especially through improved access of rural women to land; modernize family law so as to assure women equal rights, including in the areas of inheritance and land ownership; and continue the effort to combat both the sociocultural burdens that limit women's participation in political life and the discrimination and violence of which they are the targets;

90. Sensitize political parties to the need to observe the 30 per cent quota reserved for women on electoral rosters, included in the Electoral Code;

91. Develop a vision of medium- and long-term employment that takes into account the direct and indirect opportunities offered by the mining sector; and commit the private sector, in particular mining companies, to putting in place projects for local manpower and tackling the associated challenges, notably by creating training programmes to arm young Guineans with the requisite skills and qualifications to meet the needs of the labour market, while also taking into account the challenges and opportunities offered by subregional economic integration;

92. Develop also a medium- and long-term employment vision for the agricultural sector, aimed primarily at enhancing Guinea's food security and contributing to the food security of the subregion.

It is recommended that the Peacebuilding Commission:

93. Make high-level expertise available to the Guinean Government for developing a vision and a national strategy for the employment of youth and women that takes into account both the opportunities and the risks inherent in the development of the mining and agricultural sectors;

94. Encourage and support the setting up of mechanisms of coordination and mutual consultation between stakeholders and a public-private partnership, in relation especially to the development of the mining sector; and identify peacebuilding actions that might benefit not only communities (respect for the environment, respect for community values, land rights, social services, development of the local economy), but also youth and women (direct and indirect employment, respect for workers' rights) and mining companies (reduction of tension with communities, existence of conflict-resolution mechanisms, guarantee of greater safety of plants and facilities);

95. Support the Government in defining and implementing a comprehensive youth employment programme that includes a vocational training component capable of enhancing the employability of young Guineans, in particular in the agricultural and mining sectors.

3.4 Next stages

96. The two parties agree to conduct the next review of the Statement of Mutual Commitments in the final quarter of 2012.

Annex

Information on programmes/projects implemented by members of the Guinea configuration in areas other than the three priority areas of the Statement of Mutual Commitments

A. Spain

In the area of cooperation for development, Spain has implemented a number of initiatives and activities relating to the three peacebuilding priorities. In 2006, after the visit to Guinea of Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, a $5 million cooperation for development programme was approved. Official Development Assistance (ODA) reached $8.7 million in 2009 and $5.3 million in 2010.

Bilateral cooperation

Spain has undertaken activities in the following areas:

(a) Food security: a project to improve food security in Koundara (562,769 euros); the DREAM project to fight malnutrition among HIV- and AIDS-affected people (74,500 euros); a project on food and nutrition oversight (implemented by the non-governmental organization "Acción contra el hambre" (Action against Hunger), 100,000 euros); and a project on food security implemented by "Acción contra el hambre" (646,583 euros);

(b) Health: development and strengthening of national branches of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Western Africa (200,000 euros for Guinea); support to the Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (500,000 euros for the Presidential elections in Guinea); contribution to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for a programme on water in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Senegal ($2.25 million for Guinea); EFA-FTI Catalytic Fund (Spain has contributed 237 million euros to the Fund and Guinea has received $64 million for 2003-2011); in-kind contributions (food) in 2007-2009 worth 1.5 million euros for schools in the Guinée Forestière region;

(c) Migration and development: Guinea is a beneficiary of the 10 million euro Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)-Spain Fund on Migration and Development. The Fund focuses on institution-building and civil society projects. Guinea has presented a "Projet d'appui au renforcement des capacités en matière de migration et de développement" and the Executive Committee of the Fund has approved two civil society projects ("Projet de radio des femmes de la Mano pour la diffusion d'information sur la circulation des femmes au sein de la CEDEAO" and "Protection des droits des migrants et la lutte contre les tracassaries aux postes frontiers en Guinée").

Initiatives at the regional level

(a) Spain has contributed 240 million euros to the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa: ECOWAP in three years. In 2009, Spain made a

contribution of 80 million euros to the World Bank Global Food Response Programme and 70 million euros to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme;

(b) Since 2006, Spain has contributed 20 million euros to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/Spain Fund for the Empowerment of African Women. Several Guinean non-governmental organizations have presented funding proposals that are currently under consideration.

Future actions and initiatives

Spain will continue to help in stabilizing the situation in the country. Guinea comes under Group B of its "Master plan for cooperation for development 2009-2012".

B. Russian Federation

The Russian Federation provides humanitarian food aid to the people of Guinea. In January 2012, the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters supplied Conakry with 760 tons of peas worth $1 million as part of the Russian Federation's regular contribution to the World Food Programme (WFP). Preparatory work is under way to supply additional food and humanitarian aid totalling $2 million in accordance with Decree No. 1401-r of the Government of the Russian Federation of 11 August 2011.

The second meeting of the Russian-Guinean Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Trade Cooperation was held in Moscow from 23 to 26 October 2011. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister for Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, Yuri Trutnev, and the Minister for International Cooperation of Guinea, Koutoubou Sano. It served to create favourable conditions for additional investments by the Russian Federation in the Guinean economy. Arrangements facilitated the participation of interested State and private companies of both countries in the realization of projects in the fields of energy, agriculture, transportation, the extraction of mineral resources and technical cooperation. The settlement of Guinea's debt to the Russian Federation, including within the framework of the Paris Club, was discussed. It was agreed that the bilateral Intergovernmental Commission would hold a third meeting in the second half of 2012 in Conakry.

C. France

France has concentrated its resources for the reform of the Guinean State on two priorities: reform of the security sector (cf. para. 28(b)) and State capacity-building.

Capacity-building of the Guinean State

In the civil sector, in anticipation of the launch of a large-scale programme in 2012, France has been mobilizing emergency funds in support of governance since 2011. As a result, in 2011 exceptional funding (300,000 euros) made it possible to:

(a) Conduct expert missions in the area of financial governance (taxation, customs);

(b) Launch a joint project with the European Union designed to strengthen the overall system of external oversight in Guinea (support for putting in place a permanent framework for consultation and coordination among oversight structures, structured and effective reorganization of the targeted bodies (Government Accounting Office, State Inspectorate (IGE), Financial Inspectorate (IGF) and improvement of the quality of oversight through training and better working conditions).

Programming in 2012 will consolidate France's strategy around the areas of intervention already selected in 2011 through the launching of the priority solidarity fund designed to lift Guinea out of crisis. In the area of financial governance (100,000 euros), France will assist with the introduction of the new organizational structure of the National Taxation Department, in order to increase tax revenues and place them on a permanent footing. This action will be made possible by the support of three technical assistants in this sector. Coordination of this action with the continuation of the project in support of oversight bodies, begun in 2011 and speeded up in 2012, should enhance the expected results. In the area of democratic governance (120,000 euros), France's action will be focused on a programme of support for Guinean civil society, while in the area of local governance (50,000 euros), it will promote greater involvement of local elected officials in the challenges of decentralization.

D. Luxembourg

The activities implemented by Luxembourg include:

(a) Capacity-building of State institutions:

Support for exchanges and training between the Economic and Social Council of Guinea and that of Luxembourg (99,450 euros, 2008 to 2012).

(b) Development cooperation projects in social sectors:

(i) Cofinancing of two projects to strengthen the family in Kankan and Labé, implemented by the Luxembourg non-governmental organization SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde-Luxembourg (570,203.70 euro contribution for 2010-2012);

(ii) Authority entrusted to the Senegalese non-governmental organization Enda Santé to implement an anti-HIV/AIDS project aimed at vulnerable population groups (particularly women and young people) in the border areas and major cities of eight West African countries. The budget for activities in Guinea is 445,382 euros for 2011-2015.

E. Portugal

The region of West Africa is one of the central priorities of Portugal's foreign policy, both in terms of multilateral action and bilateral development cooperation (namely through cooperation programmes with Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde). Since the challenges faced by Guinea are, to a large extent, common to most other

countries in the region (and, in some cases, have an important regional dimension), Portugal contributes to the peacebuilding priorities of Guinea and the work of the configuration mainly by sharing its experience in cooperating with countries facing similar transition and peacebuilding processes (especially Guinea Bissau, but also Timor-Leste) and by systematically advocating in multilateral forums for greater attention to the challenges of countries in the West African region.

More specifically, and in the absence of bilateral cooperation programmes with Guinea, Portugal will continue to work towards strengthening multilateral programmes that are instrumental in fulfilling the priority areas of the Statement of Mutual Commitments. This is the case with the European Union's various bilateral and regional programmes for West Africa, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) programme for combating organized crime in West Africa (to which Portugal is a contributor). While not directly related with the priority areas of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, the latter is an essential aspect of long-term stability, as was recognized in the recent joint meeting of the four West African configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission.

As a member of the Security Council in 2011-2012, Portugal has argued and will continue to argue for greater attention to the challenges threatening stability in West Africa, both in the countries on the Security Council's agenda and in the region as a whole. This includes reinforcing the United Nations presence through its Office for West Africa and the partnership with subregional organizations, in particular ECOWAS.

Portugal will also support initiatives that promote a conflict prevention perspective, such as the recent open debates on organized crime in West Africa and the Sahel and on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. It is Portugal's understanding that greater stability and strong security sectors in the region will be beneficial for peacebuilding goals in Guinea.

Lastly, from a political and diplomatic perspective, Portugal can use its privileged contacts with lusophone countries in the region and its relations with ECOWAS to raise awareness regarding the importance of good-neighbourly relations, the fostering of political and economic ties and the need for joint efforts to combat common threats to peace and stability.

F. Turkey

Cooperation at the bilateral level

Turkey's policy on Guinea is part of its overall policy on Africa. For Turkey, Africa is a strategic political, economic and social partner. The main elements of its policy are ensuring political stability by improving democratic institutions, increasing welfare and strengthening social structures.

In 2011, there were a number of important high-level contacts between Turkey and Guinea:

(a) The Minister for International Cooperation of Guinea, Koutoubou Sano, visited Turkey as Special Envoy on 18 and 19 March 2011 and had a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu. On that occasion,

Mr. Sano also held meetings with the Minister of State, Cevdet Yılmaz, and with officials of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency;

(b) Within the margins of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in İstanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gül, held meetings with the President of Guinea, Alpha Condé, and the Guinean Minister for Foreign Affairs and Guineans Living Abroad, Edouard Niakoye Lama, on 10 May. Cooperation in the field of development and economic and commercial relations and Turkey's assistance in education were given priority at those meetings;

(c) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad and the Minister for International Cooperation of Guinea participated in the Africa-Turkey Partnership Ministerial Review Conference, organized in İstanbul on 15 and 16 December 2011;

(d) The Dakar office of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency has been working closely with the Guinean authorities on development. In this regard, Guinea's priorities are taken into consideration by focusing on training, agricultural development and irrigation projects.

There has been a gradual improvement in Guinea's economy. In parallel, bilateral trade between Turkey and Guinea has been improving. Although the bilateral trade volume is not high, it increased by 36 per cent in 2011 compared with the previous year. Turkish business organizations, especially the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey, strengthen the bilateral and international connections of Guinean businesspersons by inviting them to international events. Within this framework, five Guinean businesspersons participated in the event "Turkey-Africa Trade Bridge" organized in İstanbul on 16 December 2011.

Plans for the upcoming period

In the upcoming period, Turkey will continue to develop its bilateral relations with Guinea and to speed up its efforts to help Guinea integrate in the international community.

Turkey has historical and cultural ties with Guinea. Within its policy of opening up to Africa, Turkey attaches importance to its relations with all African countries, including Guinea. With this understanding, the two countries have agreed on the mutual establishment of diplomatic missions in 2012.

The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency will continue its efforts in the field of development. In addition, Guinea is one of the countries to benefit from Turkey's annual provision of $200 million in development assistance to the least developed countries, which was announced at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Turkey and Guinea enjoy good relations within the margins of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation. In this regard, Guinea participates in the summit meetings for religious leaders of Muslim countries and communities of the African continent. In addition, Turkey will continue to provide scholarships to Turkish religious educational institutions to ensure the education of qualified clerics.

G. Ukraine

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Guinea is an integral part of Ukraine's foreign policy on West Africa, one of the key elements of which is a substantial contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in the region. Ukraine has contributed — and continues to contribute — troops, police and civilian experts to all multidimensional United Nations missions in West Africa.

Ukraine actively participates in the activity of the Group of Friends of Guinea, encouraging initiatives aimed at achieving priorities in sectors other than those covered by the Statement of Mutual Commitments.

H. European Union

Other programmes linked with the three priority areas of the Peacebuilding Commission include a programme of support for decentralization:

- Technical assistance and a series of ongoing studies: 0.95 million euros (2011-2012)
- Programme of support for decentralization: 10 million euros (2013-2015)
- Institutional support at the central level and at the decentralized regional and local levels
- Funding mechanism for decentralization
- Effective implementation of decentralization in basic social sectors (water/health/sanitation — additional programmes totalling 28.4 million euros).